Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Monday 26 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Tuesday 27 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Monday 26 Dec 2022 at 03:10

Confidence: High for unsettled conditions, and cold and showery conditions Monday, then often wet and windy weather, but lower confidence in the timing of worst of conditions.

Headline for Monday 26 Dec 2022: Cold with sunny spells and showers, these wintry above 300 or 400m and becoming more frequent by afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Monday 26 Dec 2022

Blizzards
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood.

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Light snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Light snow showers (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability					
10%	20%	50%	50%	40%	20%

Forecast for Monday 26 Dec 2022

Weather: Sunny spells during the day with showers, these wintry above around 300m and becoming rather frequent and merging in afternoon. Showers will be heavy at times, with blizzards on the tops and possibly the odd rumble of thunder too, but fewer showers in the evening with clear spells.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% becoming 40% by the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Generally good visibility out of cloud, but falling poor at times in showers and very poor, sometimes close to Nil in snow and within cloud, broken or periods cloud, base 500-700m but perhaps extensive in afternoon with bases lowering to 300 or 400m at times.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Monday 26 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	37/43 W	36/43 W	39/49 W	42/53 W	33/42 W	26/32 W	24/29 SW
600	29/39 W	30/40 W	32/43 W	34/46 W	26/36 W	21/29 W	19/27 W
300	10/31 W	10/30 W	14/35 W	13/37 W	12/30 W	8/23 W	7/20 W
Valley	9/29 W	9/28 W	15/35 W	14/36 W	12/29 W	8/21 W	7/20 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-13	-3/-13	-3/-13	-3/-13	-3/-12	-3/-11	-3/-11
600	-0/-9	-0/-9	-0/-8	-0/-9	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-7
300	2/-2	2/-2	2/-2	2/-3	2/-3	1/-2	1/-2
Valley	4/1	4/1	5/1	4/0	4/0	4/1	4/1
Freezing Level*	400m	400m	500m	500m	400m	500m	400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Cold with a significant chill at height and risk of disorientation at height in heavy snow and blizzard conditions. Winds stronger in or near showers, with blustery conditions over exposed peaks and ridges and marked buffeting at times.

Forecast for Tuesday 27 Dec 2022

Weather: A few showers overnight with a frost but cloudy by the end of the night with outbreaks of snow, though rain below 600m by daybreak. Overcast in morning and becoming windy with snow turning to rain, but becoming heavy and prolonged. Rain becoming patchy in the afternoon then clearing to a few showers in the evening.

Maximum wind: Southwest 25mph increasing 30-40 gusts 50mph in morning. Turning Westerly in afternoon then easing 25-30mph gusts 40mph in evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% by the end of the night and becoming 60% in evening, otherwise generally little change through daylight hours.

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly good visibility overnight, but becoming moderate or poor in morning rain, Very poor visibility in summit snow at first and within cloud, periods above 600 or 700m by morning then becoming persistent and lowering to 500m, occasionally lower, though breaking up in evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero to minus 2 C in early hours, rising to plus 4 C by morning then 9 C by the afternoon.
At 800m: Minus 3 C rising to plus 1 C by morning, then to plus 4 C for a time
Freezing level: Above the tops from daybreak, lowering to 1000m later

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Sunday 25 December2022 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:55 Full report: A very Happy Christmas from Helvellyn! The vast majority of the Lakeland Fells and paths are clear of snow and ice. The little snow that remains lies above 850m, with most above 900m, in sheltered spots and hollows and on steep east and north facing aspects. The only ice encountered today was easy to avoid and located on popular routes where the snow has been compacted. Most of the snow was soft, wet and thawing – it was plus 3 degrees and raining on the summit at midday. The main hazards today were the wet, slippery nature of rocks underfoot combined with the gusty wind. It is definitely essential to concentrate on careful foot placement especially when attempting steep and exposed terrain (such as the Helvellyn Edges). Despite the milder temperatures the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was minus 5 degrees C, so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility such as low cloud are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. The temperatures are forecast to fall tonight and tomorrow, so walkers heading for the higher fells on Boxing Day should expect, and be prepared to encounter, fresh snow. In addition, as the ground is currently saturated and the rocks are wet, verglas (thin ice) may form at higher elevations – as it did last Friday. For this reason, walkers heading for the higher fells and especially those attempting steep and exposed routes (such as Striding and Swirral Edges) should consider carrying an ice axe and microspikes. Goggles are also recommended to lessen the sting of any windblown hail. The Fell Top Assessing team of Zac, Wes and Jon would like to wish all our readers and followers a very Merry Christmas and many enjoyable, memorable and safe days out on the wonderful Lakeland Fells. Temperature: plus 2.8 C, Maximum wind speed 36.1 mph, Wind chill: minus 5.5 C, Average wind speed: 24.7 mph.

Issued at: 03:10 on Mon 26 Dec 2022

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